

Issue #79

March 31, 1986

STUFF

**MED' RIM MASTERS** is published by Ron Brown, 1526 El Sommo Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93304. It is dedicated to the play of postal DIPLOMACY and MACHIAVELLI. Sub rates are \$5.50/12 issues. There will be current game openings.

This week witnessed one of the saddest events of our lifetimes. The tragic loss of the crew and vessel makes us all feel bad. Our biggest hope is that future launches go smoothly. Perhaps if the reason can be pinpointed future flights will fly in safety, carrying off much less.

Things look good for a visit to ORCON this year. If you are planning on attending, I'll be in and out of the DIPLOMACY tournament and would like to meet any new (or old) writers to MR. ORCON will be held at the L.A. Airport Hyatt Hotel Feb. 15-17th. See you there.

I get the impression that some people are pissed off at me for having the audacity to print my opinion concerning the 1983AY case. Sorry if it did. I didn't mean to make anyone angry, but I feel a strong belief in freedom of the press and the right to air my (and/or others') opinions. You'll see what I mean, I suppose, in the RR. As to the fate of the game, Mike was to have gotten the results out a couple of weeks ago but never did. I'm going to make one last attempt to see if he will forward the orders for the current season to Jim Burgess, Cuphan Games Custodian. For obvious reasons, I feel obligated to have nothing to do with this process. Jim should be notifying all players soon to send him a set of orders for the current season if he doesn't get those orders from Mike soon. My final statement on the game: I think it's too bad that a novice GM was so severely penalized for the sort of thing which occurs in a large number of games that no one even thinks about. I'm not sure why Mike was singled out to be turned in this manner. And I'm concerned that there is absolutely no recourse to someone who is so victimized. Well, that's it. I will never again bring up the subject of the irregularity ruling of 1983AY in these pages. I will stop "humping" on "ancient history", as some have said. "Mury" said.

Simon Billenness, 61A Park Avenue, Albany, NY 12202 has come out with his first copy of THE NEW ZINE DIPLOMACY (#5). It is very well done and available from Simon for \$1.50. Feel free to contact him regarding any entries, trades, and/or subscriptions. Publishers updated entries need to be in by March 31st for the next edition. For more information, write to Simon at the above address. The ZN is back on the road and eager to accept subscriptions.

The real DIPLOMACY WORLD #40 has been published by Larry Peery. Larry has also created an anthology of the best from the first 39 issues. This anthology is printed full size with a comb binding. The cost is \$10.00. Larry can even send you copies of individual articles you request for 15¢/pg. Write to Larry Peery, PO Box 8416, San Diego, CA 92102 to place your order. By the way, DIPLOMACY WORLD #41 is scheduled for immediate publication and subs are only \$12/4 issues.

## THE GAMES!!

MACHIAVELLI NO. 52 SUMMER 1457 PLAGUE STRIKES! (Roll- 4 = good year, Row Only) Plague hits: Palermo, Genoa, Albania, Pisa, Tunis, Avignon, Milan, and Sardiania. THOUSANDS SUCCUMB TO THE BLACK PLAGUE! TWO MILANESE ARMIES DISSOLVE! TURKISH FLEET SCUTTLED!! MACH. NO. 52 SUMMER 1457 RACE IS ON BETWEEN MILAN AND VENICE AS WAR BEGINS TO ERUPT!!

Milan (Albrecht): A2 Turin-S-Provence; A3 Trent-S-Carinthia; A4 Savoy-A-Genoa; A5 Hungary-A-Slavonia; A6 Avignon-A-Provence/NSU; A7 Saluzzo-A-Savoy; A8 Milan-S-Trent/NSU; A9 Carinthia-S-Trent; A10 Fornova-A-Parma; A11 Brescia-A-Cremona; A12 Genoa-A-Modena/NSU.

Venice (Coburn):

(1d) A1 Lucca-B-Lucca (Autonomous Garrison Falls to Venice); A2 Croatia-S-Dalmatia; A3 Mantua-A-Brescia; A4 Bosnia-A-Dalmatia; A5 Vicenza-S-Carinthia; A6 Verona-S-Brescia; A7 Friuli-A-Carinthia; A8 Piombino-A-Sienna; F1 UppAdr-S-Dalmatia; F2 Romagna-S-UppAdr.

Naples (Heflin):

A1 Urbino-A-Florence; A2 Bari-A-Salerno; F1 Naples-A-GotNap; F3 Messina-A-Palermo.

Turks (Palter\*):

NMR! A2 Dalmatia-H/a; A1 Herzeg, F1 LowAdr, F3 Salerno, F4 Bay of Tun, F5 WesMed - all H.

Papacy (Patejak):

A1 Perugia-H; A3 Rome-A-Perugia; F1 Ancona-A-Romagna.

F

France (CD):

Both French units are herewith dissolved and removed from the board as no one wants this position. France is now considered: OUT.

Fall 1457 due 3/11/86.

\*No standby for Dan (as if I had one anyway!) - I got a call from him regarding a clarification on the last game report, but never received a set of order from him. I'm sure he wants to stay in the game and that this NMR was just an oversight.

GM Note: A player brought up an interesting rules interpretation question; to wit, "Rule No. V, D, 2, a, (pg. 5): 'Once complete control of another player's home country is gained, the controlling player may start to use the conquered home country as if it were part of his own home country.' I would construe this to mean that the conquering player gets to use the conquered country's treasury as well as cities and provinces. What do you think?" Nice try, but no cigar. No, I don't think that's the correct interpretation. A conquered Principality yields the right to build in that conquered player's cities -- plus the variable income roll from that country. Nowhere do the rules state that the treasury is captured as well. It's more logical to assume, perhaps, that the fleeing Ruler took with him all the Gold from the Treasury.

Clarification on Victory Conditions: A reminder that the first player to control 15 cities at the end of a campaign is the winner. I believe Milan is in the lead with 13 or so. This game shouldn't last another year!

\* \* \* \* \*

1984CH FALL 1904 GM DELAYS GAME FOR TWO WEEKS!!

GM Note: Last time French F Bre-MAO was omitted from the game report. This was not called to my attention until the day before the deadline, therefore, the delay. If knowledge of the above makes you want to change your orders, please have your new set turned in by Feb. 18th, 1986. Thanks. The F104 report will be to players only via MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING.

\* \* \* \* \*

"These words are razors to my wounded heart."

TITUS ANDRONICUS I, i, 119.

THE GAMES (Con'd)

1983HX FALL 1906 TURK ENJOYS ONLY GROWTH THIS YEAR AS ENGLIST DESTROY GERMAN ARMY!  
 England (Hugh): F MAO-H; A BRE-Par; A BUR-Par; F ENG-s-F Bel-Pic; F Bel-PIC;  
 F Hol-HEL; A Yor-HOL; F NTH-c-A Yor-Hol; F STP(nc)-Nwy.  
 Germany (Gorham): F SWE-Nwy; F DEN-Nth; F Bal-KIE; A Mun-RUH; A Sil-MUN; A Pic-Bre/a/  
 Italy (Kelly): NMR; A SPA, F POR, F NAF, F WES, F ROM - all H; A TRI-H/d/-r-Ven,Tya,  
 OTB.

Russia (Gardner): A Ukr-RUM; F SEV-s-A Ukr-Rum; A War-UKR; A MOS-StP; A Gal-BUD;  
 A VIE-s-Italian A TRI.

Turkey (Torkelson): A Alb-TRI; A SER & F ADR-s-A Alb-Tri; A BUL-Rum; F Ank-BLA; F ION-H.  
 Winter 1906 AND Spring 1907 are due 3/18/86.

\*Would Jerry Lucas, 3902 Lakemead Way, Redwood City, CA 94062 please standby for Italy?  
 1983HX 1906 Supply Center Chart

England- Home,Nwy,Bre,StP,Hol,Bel,Par....(9) 0

Germany- Home,Den,Swe,Ven .....(6)+1 (one short)

Italy- Rom,Nap,Tun,Mar,Spa,Por.....(6) 0

Russia- Mos,War,Sev,Rum,Bud,Vie.....(6) 0

Turkey- Home,Bul,Gre,Ser,TRI.....(7)+1

If Italy-A TRI-t-VEN, then Italy will be +1 and Germany even.

1983HX Press-

RUSSIA-TURKEY: Are you sure you want to do this?

BERLIN-WORLD: The key word these days, gentlemen, is let's stew those Lima Beancakes and good!!

ENGLAND-GERMANY: My Dear Friend! Your slanderous press slighted my name, caused my children to question my authority and mad people, who didn't know me, believe that I was a lecherous, back-stabbing, lying cheat. This can't possibly be all true!! I have, on occasion, been referred to as a ietch, but let me remind you -- just a little one! Also, on occasion, I've been called a lying, back-stabbing cheat; but please, show some class. Say, "Mr. Lying, Back-Stabbing Cheat!! (Your elders need respect). Ron Brown can vouch for my impeccable character -- tell 'em Ron? - Char can too??"

RUSSIA-ENGLAND: Thanks for the letters, but . . .

BAKERSFIELD-ENGLAND: Yeah, I asked Char what you meant about asking her to vouch for your "character"; she just got this dreamy-eyed look on her face and sighed. OK, Bill, have you been stopping off in Bakersfield while I was away?! And as for me vouching for your character, well, let me say that it's, well, er, that is, I mean . . . Nevermind.

RUSSIA-GM: Next time you give me a position, how about a 1 center nothing? This job is work!

BAKERSFIELD-RUSSIA: What do you mean work? That was only a 6 center position when you got it and already you have it up to . . . 6 centers? Well, keep up the good work(!) anyway, Paul!

\* \* \* \*

983CR WINTER 1907 DRAW AND CONCESSION BOTH FAIL!

England- No Adj Italy- No Adj

France- F Eng-r-FIC

Russia- No Adj

Germany- Builde F KIE

Turkey- No Adj

1983CR SPRING 1908 GERMANY CONTINUES PUSH FOR WIN AS KRAUTS SLAY FRENCH ARMY IN SO. FRANCE

England (Rodriguez): F WAL-H; F MAO-H; F Spa(sc)-H/d/-r-Por,OTB.

France (Gorham): F PIC-Bel; A Mar-Bur/a; F Lpl-Cly/NSU/.

Germany (Kuszynski): A MOS-s-Russian F Sev; A GAL-Rum; A UKR-s-A Gal-Rum; A VIE-s-A Tya; A TYA-s-A Vie; A Sil-BOH; A MUN-Bur; A Pie-MAR; A GAS-s-A Pie-Mar; F NTH-Bel; F Kie-HOL; F Eng-IND; F NAT-s-F Eng/Liz; A Edi-LPL; F Len-ENG.

Italy (Johnson): A VEN-s-Turk,A TRI-Tya/NSO/; A Rom-TUS; F APU-s-A Ven/IND.

Russia (CD): F SEV-H.

Turkey (Schiawartz): A ARM-Sev; F BLA-s-A Arm-Sev; A RUM-s-A Arm-Sev; A BUD-s-A Rum;

A Ser-s-A Rum; A TRI-s-A Bud; F ADR-s-A Tri; F Wes-SPA(sc);

F LYO-s-F Wes-Spa(sc); F Tun-WES.

Fall 1908 due 3/16/86. ((Con'd next pg.))

1983CR (Con'd)

Fall 1908 due 3/16/86. There is a call for a concession to Germany. Please vote with your next orders remembering that NVR = "Yes" vote!

\* \* \* \* \*

1983CS WINTER 1907 (GM Note: France doesn't own Kiel; F is +2, not +3. )

Austria- No Adj

Italy- No Adj

England- Builds A LON & A EDI

Russia- Disbands A Pru

France- Builds A BRE & F MAR

Turkey- Disbands F Adr

1983CS SPRING 1908 MANY VOICES CALL FOR CEASE-FIRE AS TURKISH FORCES HEAD FOR PERSIA!!

Austria (Hager): A Tri-SER; A BUD-s-A Tri-Ser; A Apu-GRE.

England (Johnson): A Edi-STP; F NWG & F BAR-c-A Edi-STP; A Lon-HOL; F NTH-c-A Lon-Hol; F Kie-BER; F BAL-s-F Kie-Ber; A BEL-H; A Mos-WAR; A StP-MOS; A LVN-s-A Mos-War.

France (Rowell): A Ber-SIL; A MUN-s-A Ber-Sil; A CAL-Rub; A Ven-TRI; A VIE-s-A Ven-Tri; A Pie-VEN; A BRE-H; F Mar-SPA(sc); F ION-c-Austrian A Apu-Gre; F TYS & F NAP-s-F Ion.

Italy (CD): F ALB-H.

Russia (Gorham): A Sil-BOH.

Turkey (Pitas): F Smy-SYR; F Aeg-EAS; A Con-ANK; A Ank-ARM; A Rum-BUL; A UKR-Rum; A SEV-H.

Fall 1908 due 3/14/86. There is a call for a concession to the English/French alliance. Please vote on the proposed E/F Draw, remembering that NVR='Yes' vote.

1983CS Press-

ANGRY ENGLAND: Timid Turk, You can run, but you can't hide.

CONSTANTINOPLE-WORLD: Peace and good will to all. What is mine is now yours.

\* \* \* \* \*

MURD'RING MINISTERS STANDBY LIST

DIPLOMACY - Dan Gorham, Jim Bumpas, Bill Hugh, Stan Johnson, Paul Gardner, and Jerry Lucas. Anyone else want on or off? Please let me know.

MACHIAVELLI - None. Any Mach players out there?

\* \* \* \* \*

READERS' RHETORICAL REPLIES

(( from Steve Langley )) 1/14/86

Dear Ron,

If you mean by a partial trade that I send you an issue of MAGUS each time you send me an issue of MM, sounds okay to me, but what do you want with occasional issues of MAGUS?

What exactly is going to bind the ENC to pay attention to any Board of Review? Which Board of Review takes precedence? You must realize that as soon as one such board is formed, another political faction will form their own board and denounce the first. What is the point of the whole thing? So that people named Ron Brown can get credit for winning games? I thought the idea was to have fun playing, to win if you are able, and to test yourself against others. From what I read in MM, it seems that getting credit is what it's all about. Silly me.

You already have a Board of Appeal, by the way. The raters are the only people who use the "Irregular" notation for anything. If you feel your game should be rated, all you have to do is convince the raters.

Best,  
Steve

RRR (Con'd)

(( Thanks for writing, Steve. Why would I want occasional issues of MAGUS? To read of course. Yes, silly you. It's up to you if you want the partial trade offer. When I used to get MAGUS back when I was a player in the R7 game, I thought it was an excellent zine. I haven't seen any in quite awhile and thought it would be nice. You are exactly correct about the Board of Review thing. It would probably be senseless to try and put some controls over the erratic and opinionated decisions rendered by folks in that office. As you pointed out, RobertsSacks or someone would just start up their own Board and so what would be the point. See Bruce McIntyre's letter for good suggestion about it, though. Steve, if you saw the whole point of the 83AY stuff of the last two issues as being printed "so that people named Ron Brown can get credit for winning games," then I can only shake my head. I must be a failure at written communication if that's the way it came across. I personally could give a shit about whether I get any ratings "credit" for 83AY. What I do give a shit about though, is my reputation and my integrity as a GM and as a player. Is that such a mind-boggling concept? - RB ))

(( Last issue generated a letter from Bob Olsen which he subsequently asked me not to print - I won't. I will print the card though, as follows.)

(( from Bob Olsen ))

1/22/86

Ron, On second thought, I would prefer to walk away in silence. And I certainly would not want to take up space which might better be used for important Bruce Linsey hate letters. Therefore, please do not print my letter of last week.

In my disgust and anger I temporarily forgot that His word is Law; that Junta thugs can get away with anything; and that the only crime is not criminality, but to stand up for decency. How silly of me. The sub cancellation of course stands.

Robert Olsen

(( Gee, Bob, I don't know what to say. Your previous Not-For-Print letter and this brief note seem to me to be saying, "If you print a letter from Bruce Linsey you are a dirty slime dog and I don't want your zine." I'm truly sorry if that is, indeed, what you are saying. I'd just like to briefly state for the record that MM has always had an open letter column. I have always printed letters from anyone saying anything. If someone says something really off the wall, then it's up to the readership to respond (via the RRR) and let them know. I don't want to change this policy after all this time. I'd also like to say that your letter was one of the saddest, bewildering, confused, and depressing missives I've ever received in connection with this hobby. I am truly saddened that you feel the way you do. One last thing before I say good-bye to Bob Olsen on the pages of MM -- Bob is one of the nicest people I've encountered in this crazy hobby. The games I've enjoyed the most as a player were games shared with Bob Olsen. I remember, quite fondly, the many letters we exchanged while in those 3 games together. I don't think there is anyone I like as much or have as much respect for as Bob Olsen. Good luck, Bob. Please take care . . . - RB ))

((Con'd next page))

\* \* \*

"Such duty as the subject owes the prince,  
Even such a woman oweth to her husband."

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW V, ii, 156.

RRR (Con'd)

(( from Ben Schilling ))

1/19/86

Dear Ron,

A number of points:

- 1) What you're doing on your trades is called one for one.
- 2) You're the one who said that this game might be irregular, I mentioned that statement to Jim Burgess.
- 3) Those of you who want a full set of rules should move away from any of the English speaking countries. Under the English Common Law, the question is not whether a rule has been broken but rather whether or not any harm has been done.

Ben Schilling

(( Thanks, oh omnipotent granter of divine wisdom! I will of course, stop referring to my "Partial Trades" and begin immediately using the correct "One for One". Jeez, give me a break. As for your English Common Law statement, besides I see it as totally irrelevant, the capper is that I agree with you! My whole point is exactly what you close with; that is, the fact that there was no harm done to the game at all!! My gripe is that "rules" are being dreamed up to justify someone's "gut feeling". And as for No. 2 in your list of points, I think you're crazy. The first I heard about 1984CH being Irregular came from the OG Honcho, Jim Burgess. He said about this incident in YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS #4, "To recap, Ben Schilling requested that game be moved to another GM and did hint (as Ron noted) that he might ask that it be declared irregular if it were not moved." I never said that the game had any reason to be declared Irregular. - RB ))

(( from Jim Burgess - YVIASC #4 excerpt - 1/31/86 ))

Ron was (and is?) upset that I brought up the irregularity issue ((in an Aug. 26 letter to the players of 1984CH)), but as a USOS Co-Director and not being the BNC, I really had no choice. The players had a right to know what the possible consequences of staying with Ron might be. I do not intend to discuss the irregularity issue per se, because this is the wrong soapbox to make upblic my views on the BNC's domain, but I would like to point out a very disturbing aspect of the concept of calling games irregular. Has a game ever been called irregular without an appeal to the BNC for the label to be applied? Does the BNC review every game finish to probe for possible grounds for irregularity? (obviously not) Irregardless of the validity of any objections about the conduct of 1984CH (or any other game), the irregularity issue will only come up if someone prods the BNC about it. Obviously, the attachment of the label is and always has been inconsistent. I leave you to draw your own conclusions, but I wanted people to know what I meant by the statement, "The decision (made officially by Bill Quinn, the BNC) may or may not be affected by our decision on whether to move the game or not." Look at it from my position. It was ((not)) and is not my job to use my position to tell the BNC what to do, but I was faced with a decision concerning a request to move a game. My decision was the decision that must be made in my position; I left it up the the players. I would have been remiss in failing to inform them of all relevant information I had that might affect their decision. Their decision was to remain with Ron and the fact that they made it makes it the right decision.

As I said . . . I'll be more than pleased to run a letter column discussing anything concerning the Orphan Service.

Jim Burgess

((Con'd next page))

\* \* \* \* \*

"We may pity, though not pardon thee."

RICHARD III, I, i, 97.

RHR (con'd)

(( The more I hear from Jim Burgess, the more respect I gain for him. I think Jim is doing an excellent job with the Orphan Games Service and I wish him many more years (!) of such efficient handling of his office. No, Jim, I'm not upset over the 84CR stuff. Never was. However, I did wish to object to the announcement the way it struck me at the time. That is, that the players were informed of a desire by at least one player to move the game. And then it was implied that if they left the game with me it could very well wind up with the Irregular tag but that if it went to a GM then there was nothing to worry about. Now, how do you other GMs out there feel about this? Would you have also felt that the scales were weighted against you? Under such a threat, I'm still surprised that the players (all but one) wanted me to finish the game as GM. I guess there really is such a thing as Loyalty? I don't know why they chose to keep it here. But I'm glad they did. I understand the duties and responsibilities of Jim's office, and that he felt he owed it to the players to give them all the info pertaining to the game. But somehow, it still doesn't seem fair that the players were given the choice as it was stated. Any comments? Once again, I'd like to thank Jim Burgess for the fine job he has done. He is acting in his office in a considerate, polite, and caring manner. Please keep it up, Jim! - RB ))

((from Bruce McIntyre )) 1/30/86

Hi Ron!

\* Got the latest MM, and if I've time I may write something for DW on the subject of irregular labels, though I'm so busy now I'd have to re-read all the relevant material to organize my thoughts. A basic reaction I have to the affair is: Irregular is not a binary, or on-off, notion. All games should have anything irregular noted in the BNC's report in EVERYTHING. I mean anything: holdovers, late or lengthy turn-arounds, anything. Making the criterion for a regular game near-impossible would diminish the importance of the word irregular in a report. It would make the ratings keepers decide which games to include, and keep the options open depending on the ratings keeper's idea of irregularity. Not too clear, eh? Gimme time, and I'll make something out of this.

Cheers,  
Bruce McIntyre

(( Thanks for writing, Bruce. I think you have something here and hope you do get a chance to pursue it. I kinda agree with Steve Langley, that the ratings masters are the "review board", so to speak. The only problem now, is that every ratings master I know of accepts carte blanche the irregular recommendations of the BNC. Your idea might change that; therefore, it is worth pursuing. Jim Burgess asked in his letter (above) if the BNC has ever declared a game irregular without a player first bringing the matter to the BNC's attention and making a request for irregularity. He answered, of course not. But When Kathy was BNC, she wrote me a letter informing me that 1983CR would have to be declared irregular because of too many Californians in proximity to each other. At the time, I thought it kinda weird that someone 3,000 miles away would assume that the most densely populated state in the Union would have to have 3 or more of the same telephone area codes simply because 4 of the players were from Calif. When I pointed out to her that there were no 3 players with the same area code, she quickly and efficiently withdrew the tag. So from that experience, it does seem as though BNC's do, from time to time, move to declare games irregular without a player's request to do so. The Review Board idea probably wouldn't work for the reason Steve pointed out in his letter. Your idea may be the only practical solution to the problem. Please work on it! - RB ))

((Con'd next pg.))

(( from Fred Davis ))

1/15/86

Dear Ron:

Here are copies of my December and January BUSHWACKER in Trade for your MM #78.

I'm sorry to hear that MM may fold. You are so close to reaching the #100 mark now that I'd hoped you'd reach it. Maybe you could run just one or two games, and continue your letter columns and other interesting articles.

I would like to nominate Kathy Byrne for the NIXON Award. However, I suppose that you limit the lying to lying within the scope of Postal and FTF DIPLOMACY games. You did not state whether lying in real life could qualify a person for the NIXON Award.

Best regards,

Fred

(( Fred's zine BUSHWACKER is one of the longest-running zines around and is devoted exclusively to DIP variants. Fred has been on the postal hobby scene for probably longer than he'd care to remember! Your suggestion for the future of MM is a definitely possibility. Just which direction remains to be seen. Who knows? MM may go on past 100 issues . . . then again it may not. Wait and see. Yes, NIXON nominations must be made in good-natured fun and in the spirit of the game. Your nomination of Kathy reminds me of one rendered by Ron Brown a few years back when he nominated Glenn Overby (who had dropped from the hobby minus refunds). Thanks for writing, Fred. - RB ))

## \* \* \* \* \* OLD FASHIONED ZINE-TYPE REVIEW OF ZINES RECEIVED

by  
Ye Olde Main Minister

It's been awhile since I've done anything like this and I kind of felt like doing it so here we go. Naturally this review is only of zines I've received in the past few months. Some will be quite brief and I may have only seen 1 or 2 issues or because there's just not much to say. How many of these do you receive? If any of these sound interesting to you, I highly recommend you send 39¢ worth in stamps to these publishers and request a sample. (44¢ might be smarter, then if the zine is smaller you can get two instead of just one) - (?) What's he babbling about? Oh well, here we go, and in no particular order . . .

COSTAGUANA - Conrad von Metzke, 4374 Donald Ave., San Diego, Ca 92117-3813. Subscription rate is 22¢/issue. Trades are welcome. There are no gamefees although you must maintain a sub or trade, but that's it. Conrad has game openings in a Cline 9-Man Variant to be dubbed "William Rufus DeVane King" (only two spots left so hurry!) I think I'll complain to the Miller Number Custodian that this game should be declared Irregular before it begins. You see, Conrad is going to play in the game and use a GGM. Conrad is the one who gave this game the dreadful name of "William Rufus DeVane King" (only Conrad could have thought that one up!) and we all know that giving a postal game its name is the irrevocable right and privilege of the Gamesmaster and not the players! (Hai) But seriously folks . . . I've seen COSTA get going again a bit unsteadily at first and then really taking off and establishing itself once again as a classic DIPLOMACY Zine! C is probably my favorite zine that I get on a regular basis. And you can't beat his gamefees! COSTA contains lots of games and all kinds of different reading stuff. The last issue (#15 of Vol. 10) was a hefty 44 pages long and an excellent issue. I think Conrad has certainly started to hit his stride again and I would highly recommend it to all - whether you're looking for a game or stuff to read that's entertaining.

((Con'd next pg.))

ZINE REVIEW (Con'd)

YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS - Jim Burgess, 100 Holden St., Providence, RI 02908-5731 (401) 351-0287. Subscription rate is 25¢/issue. Trades are possible. Jim publishes YTIASC on an irregular basis in line with his duties as Orphan Games Honcho. Jim is encouraging letters to form a letter column in YES, dealing with the area of concern surrounding Orphan Games, and his duties thereof. Interesting stuff of late.

EXCELSIOR - Bruce McIntyre, 6191 Winch St., Burnaby, Brit. Columbia, Canada V5B 2L4. Subscription rate is \$2.00/3 issues in Canada; 60¢/issue in USA. I think Bruce might be interested in trades but I'm not sure. EX is an EXcellent zine. It reminds one very much of Ronald Brown's SNAP!, which comes as no surprise since Bruce was attempting to emulate the style of Ron's former publication. EX offers reading material in the form of "DipGab" and various forums. A real high-class zine with excellent graphics and reproduction. Features art work on cover frequently (I think every issue I've seen has) that is very well done, usually a caricature of the Publisher in some realated pose. I don't think there are any game openings currently, but if you were looking for a zine from Canada to play in you might keep it in mind down the road a bit. Bruce does have oenangs for a \$2.00 gamefee in some sort of soccer game he is organizing. Check it out. A superior zine. Digest size.

DIPLOMACY DIGEST - Mark Berch, 492 Naylor Pl., Alexandria, VA 22304. Subscription rate is \$4.50/10 issues. I believe Mark uses mutual subscriptions if you're interested. DD is a long-time hobby friend. Mark just recently published his 96th issue! DD offers NO games; it is a reading-only zine. The reading specifically consists mostly of old articles reprinted, and Mark's comments and/or remarks about them. It always has good stuff to read. Some people even look on DD as a hobby service zine because of its use in keeping the best material on the game of DIPLOMACY of the past from being forgotten. Highly recommended. Natch it's digest sized.

IT'S A TRAP - Steve Knight, 2732 Grand Ave. S. #302, Minneapolis, MN 55408. Subscriptions cost 50¢ plus postage/issue. Game openings are available in DIPLOMACY games: the first is a black press game; the second is a novice-only game. The game fees are \$5.00 plus a \$5.00 NMR fee. If you don't NMR during the course of your game you get the NMR fee added in issues to your subscription. IAT is offset produced and digest sized. The Jan. 5th issue (#8) weighed in at a hefty 32 pages. IAT features maps for its games, like EXCELSIOR. While the graphics may not be quite as flaxh as EX, they are superior. Cartoons ("Eyebeam") are scattered throughout giving it a pleasant touch of humor. Looks like a real good zine if you're looking for a game (and don't mind black press) especially if you're a novice. Check it out.

EUROPA EXPRESS - Gary Coughlan, 4614 Martha Cole Lane, Memphis, TN 38118, (901) 362-7206. Subscriptions are used to be \$6.00/10 issues but I think it's increased recently. Check with Gary. EE continues to be one of the standards other zines are compared to. Gary runs internatinnal games of DIP complete with maps and cartoons, features lots of letters from all over the international DIPPY community, articles on the game, personalities, travel, ideologies, and more! EE features a regular photo contest where one of its many subers is pictured and everyone guesses his/her identify. It's been great fun over the years. This is one of those rare zines where everyone should be getting it!

WINSOME-LOSESOME - Jerry Lucas, 3902 Lakemead Way, Redwood City, CA 94062 is winding down and helping Judy Winsome complete the GMing of 1983CK, its only remaining game. Judy has done an outstanding job publishing W-L and served as a masterful GM for several games of DIP she completed. The hobby will miss this one. In her last issue, Judy spoke on the topic of science fiction (#38). She said, "I enjoy the glimpse of possibilities that SF gives me. The word that comes to mind is 'fancy,' as in 'It suits my fancy'. SF allows me to abandon my grasp of my reality and examine other possible systems of reality." Yes, science-fiction is a joyful medium. Judy Winsome, closing out a most unique publishing career!

(con'd next pg.)

## ZINE REVIEW (Con'd)

LIBERERREAN - Kevin Kozlowski, 2401 E. Northern Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21241 - (301) 426-5332. Subscriptions are (??) - not sure, I think around \$6.00/10 issues. Ask Kevin and see. Kevin has taken over the LIB from Jim Bumpas and picked up where Jim left off. He will continue to utilize Jim's former procedure of deadlines every third Saturday with the publication in the mail by the following Monday. LIB under Jim and now under Kevin, has always been a gamers' zine. Not much to read but lots of games running on 3 week deadlines. These games move fast(!) compared to your average 4-5 week deadline zine. Maps are featured with games. Kevin will continue opening new games everytime he has 7 people signed up to play. He also features a DIP Bourse and a grand tactical game of futuristic warfare called ARMORED BARDARISM (a game designed by Bumpas). If you are interested in a good zine to play in that moves quickly - no frills - then the LIB is perfect!

NOT NEW YORK - Paul Gardner, Rt. 1, Box 2338, Newfane, VT 05345 - (802) 365-7635. Subscriptions cost is: (??) (Paul is another one of these guys who like to keep that info secret and not put it anywhere in their zine!) Gamefees for Regualr DIPLOMACY are \$5.00. NNY has been published somewhat erratically of late. Kind of reminds me of MM in that regard! The last issue is #10 dated 1/21/86. In it Paul warns, "I do intend to go on pubbing, but since I can offer no guarantee that I will ever stick completely to my stated 4 week pubbing schedule, I want to offer everyone a-way out" ((by refunding subs if anyone is angry over his 4½ month delay.)) NNY is an interesting little zine which features maps with its games and amusing pictures in press. It reminds me of the old RETALIATION a bit in atmosphere and looks. Same open page photo repro. Paul has an excellent sense of humor. If you aren't real uptight about punctuality, NNY could appeal to you a great deal. I believe Paul could use some standbys, so why not send for a sample?

BUSHWACHER - Fred C. Davis, Jr., 1427 Clairidge Rd., Baltimore, MD 21207 - (301) 747-7248. Subscription rate is \$6.00/12 issues for non-players. Players get their subs included in the gamefee. Fred has a game openings in "Turnabout Dip", a variant of his own design. The former neutrals have become the Great Powers and the former Powers the hapless neutrals. A sort of "what if?" version. Gamefee is \$9.00 to newcomers to the zine; \$8.00 to current readers, with another dollar off for people already playing in another game here. A standby fee is available; \$5.00 for newcomers, \$4.00 to people currently on the BUSH mailing list. For your fee, you also receive copies of the rules/maps for your game(s), plus receipt of BUSH for the duration of your game. Fred's zine is a Variants-only zine. Is it the only one? Is there another zine which publishes only DIPLOMACY Variants exclusively? I don't think so. I think Fred has the market cornered here. He also keeps you up to date on all the news regarding DipCons and other major hobby events. Occasionally we are treated to an article on astronomy giving some interesting info for us. And of course, there always Variant Rules and maps being published as a matter of course. Open faced, it is the premier Variants zine. Highly recommended.

PRAXIS - Alan Stewart, 702-25 St. Mary St., Toronto, Ontario, CANADA M4Y 1R2 - (416) 961-8095. Subscriptions are 80¢/issue (\$7.00/10 issues) for Canadians; 60¢/issue (\$5.00/10 issues) for USA subbers. I've only seen his first issue (Nov.'85) so I'm just assuming that Alan still has game openings in regular DIPFY. There were no gamefees assessed for his first game; better get a recent issue as a sample and see what the scoop is regarding gamefees. PRAXIS is open-faced with very clear and beautiful full size repro. Alan will utilize 5 week deadlines for his games. PRAXIS looks like it's going to be a strong and attractive zine. Definitely worth asking for a sample to see . . .

\* \* \* \* \*

""Your wit's too hot, it speeds too fast,  
'twill tire."

NIKON AWARD WINNER FOR 1986

(( The NIKON, as you well know, is awarded to "the Biggest Liar of the Year" in postal DIPLOMACY. It's all in good fun and is only related to the play of the game. One of the biggest contributors to the success and enjoyment of the annual Award has to be Kathy Byrne. Besides winning the Award herself one year, she has submitted more than one winning nomination. Is it no surprise then, that the winning nomination was once again submitted by Kathy Byrne?! I wish to congratulate Kathy, not just on her winning writing ability, but also on her sense of sportsmanship and level-headedness. I disagreed with a ruling she made and caused a ruckus about it. But she still realizes that I have no feelings of animosity to her - and now I think she is proving she feels the same. Anyhow, here is the winning entry . . .

## WHY I WANT TO BE MRS. NIKON

by

Daf Langley

I'm not as well known in the Hobby as my mentor Kathy Byrne, but I really can lie as well as she does.

I have tried this year to prove that point. I have stabbed her in a game and I have stabbed her where it really hurts - in the old stomach.

The game was a riot, six females and my toady - Don Williams. I mean Don, has the true male mentality - promise him your body and he'll even attack Bloodsucker, like I said, not too bright.

Her Russia was attacked by my Austria and the dummy's Turkey. True to form, she organized the board against us - but it doesn't really matter as I convinced Don to give me all his centers. I told him if he really loved me - he would. Like a sucker, he fell for it.

Kathy came out to visit me in California this year. She wanted ice cream -- Dave Grabar couldn't even find an ice cream place, so I saved her -- well, at least she thought so. I knew we'd be playing DIP later. So, I wanted to be sure that she wasn't feeling well later. I took her to the Elephant Ice Cream Parlor. You need a shovel, instead of a spoon to eat those sundaes. She ordered the sundae she'd been drooling for. Before it came, I bet her \$5.00 she'd never finish it. Bloodsucker laughed and agreed to accept my challenge! Her laughter was short lived as soon as she saw the size of the sundae. Once again, I had gotten the Bloodsucker.

So you see Ron, no one is more deserving than myself to join the very elite NIKON club. I know the competition is tough, but how many people can claim to have outdone the Bloodsucker twice in one year!!

I hope it is okay to nominate yourself - but I figure the players in this hobby are too stupid to recognize brilliance when they see it. Especially the Nerd - Williams. As for Byrne, her ego won't let her admit that I'm a better liar than she is!

(( OK, Daf, we accept your gracious self-nomination and crown you winner of the NIKON Award for 1985! Congratulations on this, er, dubious distinction and joining what she terms, "the very elite NIKON club"! And thanks, again to Kathy. I appreciate your participation! Congrats to you, too, for your winning nomination!

\* \* \* \* \*

"Who riseth from a feast  
With that keen appetite that he sits  
down?"

THE MERCHANT OF VENICE II, vi, 8.

"I am not in the roll of common men."

HENRY IV, PART I, III, i, 43.

## WRAP-UP

That takes care of this one. Hope you liked it. Please check your deadlines, players and please get those orders in early! 1983AY Update: Mike Coburn is definitely releasing custody of the game to Jim Burgess. Jim has expressed a willingness to take this game over and complete it and I'm really happy to have him do so. Any 83AY players object if we "allow" (Hai) Jim to take over as GM? I thought not. If it is acceptable to all, Jim will GM and we'll keep running the game here in the pages of MM. Mike just sent the orders he had collected off to Jim. Jim had also just sent a notice around asking for F'07 orders to be sent to him. Mine are in that envelope, Jim. I suggest you use them for the other players if you get no new set of orders from them. Thanks. We should be getting this one back on track very soon. A weird history, indeed. I'm not sure if the next game results will be sent out via flyer or via zine. Don't be surprised at either. See ya in March! - RB.

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You are getting this because:

You paid for it  
(hard to believe!)

You and I have a ~~1/1/1/1~~  
~~1/1/1/1~~ agreement One for  
One agreement

You get it complimentary!

This is a sample?

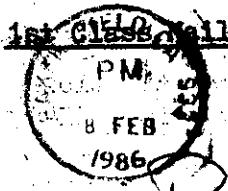
Would you/Could you let me  
see one of your recent zines?

Notes To You:

Hi Larry! I'll be subbing to DW soon as I  
remember to mail the check. Take care - Ron

MURD'RING MINISTERS

Ron Brown  
1529 El Sereno Place  
Bakersfield, CA 93304



Larry Peery

P.O. Box 8416

San Diego, CA

92102

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